SHQIPTARËT LISA MBI TRUALLIN ILIR

THËNJE PËR SHQIPTARËT NGA REVISTA MË PRESTIGJIOZE AMERIKANE

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

PËRGATITUR, PËRZGJEDHUR DHE PËRKTHYER NGA

MAL BERISHA

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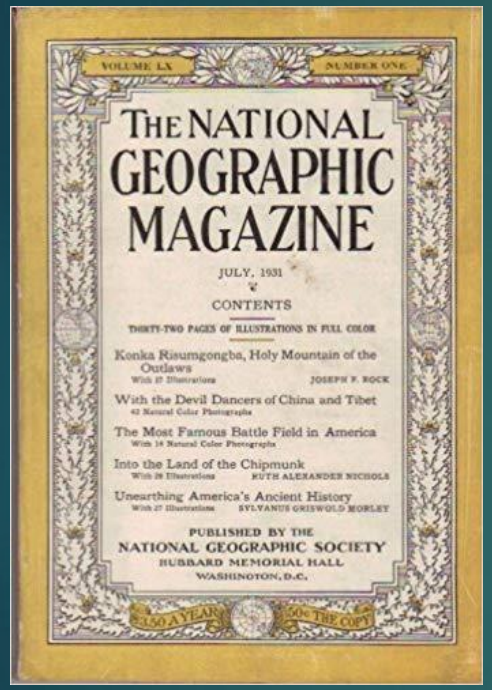

SHQIPËRIA ËSHTË LIS I RRITUR MBI NJË TRUNG ILIR.

Ashtu si disa drurë të mëdhenj zënë me hijen e tyre një pjesë të madhe të lëndinës, mbretëria e shtriu hijen e saj mbi Epir, në veriperëndim të Maqedonisë dhe në më të shumtën e territoreve që sot quhen Jugosllavi. Ajo, gradualisht, u shkatërrua nën sulmin e furishëm të Filipit të Maqedonisë dhe të birit të tij të famshëm, Aleksandrit. Më vonë, rreth kohës kur Roma kishte përfituar për vete nga parulla e luftës '**Delenda est Carthago**', iu kthye pushtimit transadriatik dhe Ilirisë duke e vendosur atë në varësinë e tri perandorive.

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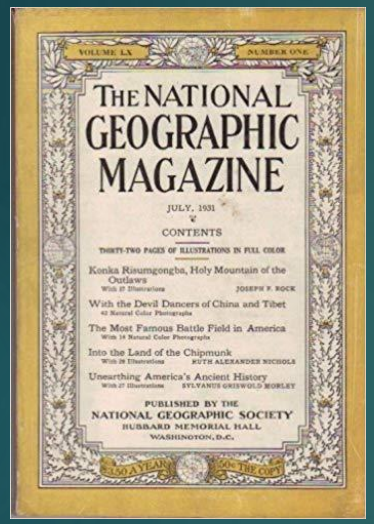

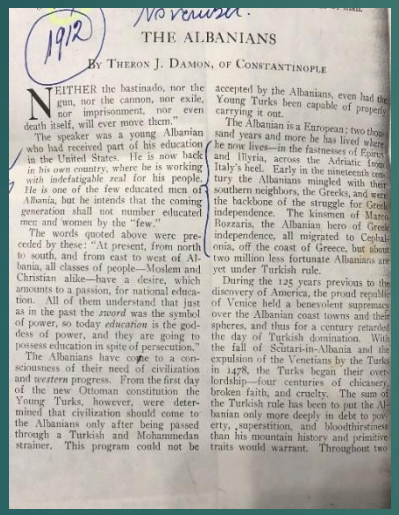

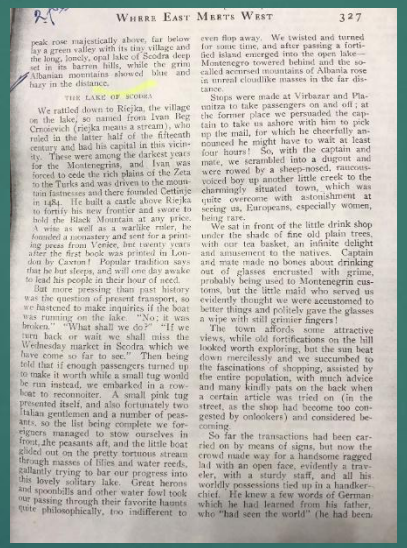

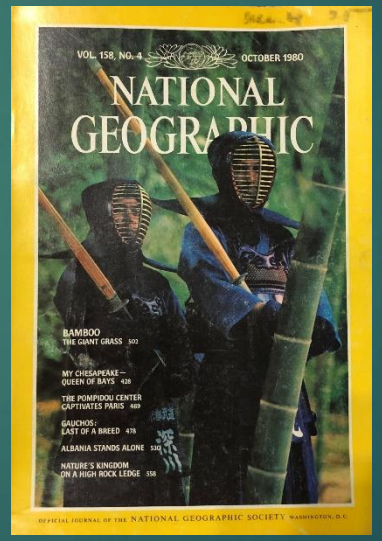

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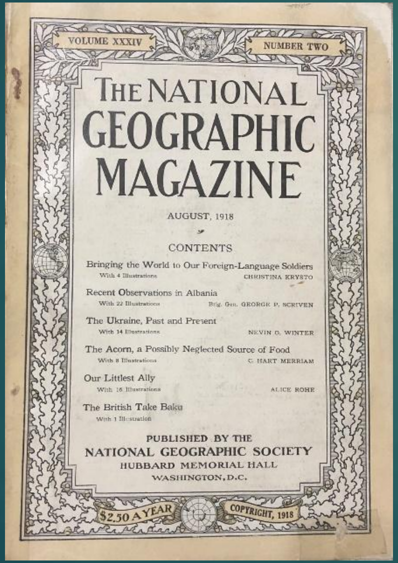

VOL. LIX, No. 2 WASHINGTON FEBRUARY, 1931

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EUROPE'S NEWEST KINGDOM

After Centuries of Struggle, Albania at Last Enjoys an Era of Peace and Stability

BY MELVILLE CHATER

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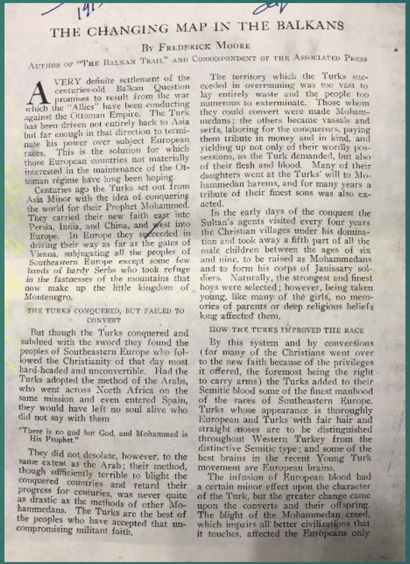


THE CHANGING MAP IN THE BALKANS

BY FREDERICK MOORE

AUTHOR OF "THE BALKAN TRAIL" AND CORRESPONDENT OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A VERY definite settlement of the centuries-old Balkan Question promises to result from the war which the "Allies" have been conducting against the Ottoman Empire. The Turk has been driven not entirely back to Asia but far enough in that direction to terminate his power over subject European races. This is the solution for which those European countries not materially interested in the maintenance of the Ottoman régime have long been hoping.

Centuries ago the Turks set out from Asia Minor with the idea of conquering the world for their Prophet Mohammed. They carried their new faith east into Persia, India, and China, and west into Europe. In Europe they succeeded in driving their way as far as the gates of Vienna, subjugating all the peoples of Southeastern Europe except some few *bands of hardy Serbs* who took refuge *in the* fastnesses of the mountains that now make up the little kingdom of Montenegro.

THE TURKS CONQUERED, BUT FAILED TO CONVERT

But though the Turks conquered and subdued with the sword they found the peoples of Southeastern Europe who followed the Christianity of that day most hard-headed and unconvertible. Had the Turks adopted the method of the Arabs, who went across North Africa on the same mission and even entered Spain, they would have left no soul alive who did not say with them

"There is no god but God, and Mohammed is His Prophet."

They did not desolate, however, to the same extent as the Arab; their method, though sufficiently terrible to blight the conquered countries and retard their progress for centuries, was never quite as drastic as the methods of other Mohammedans. The Turks are the best of the peoples who have accepted that uncompromising militant faith.

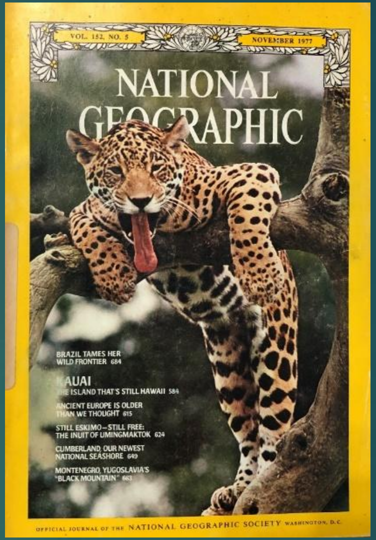
The territory which the Turks succeeded in overrunning was too vast to lay entirely waste and the people too numerous to exterminate. Those whom they could convert were made Mohammedans; the others became vassals and serfs, laboring for the conquerors, paying them tribute in money and in kind, and yielding up not only of their wordly possessions, as the Turk demanded, but also of their flesh and blood. Many of their daughters went at the Turks' will to Mohammedan harems, and for many years a tribute of their finest sons was also exacted.

In the early days of the conquest the Sultan's agents visited every four years the Christian villages under his domination and took away a fifth part of all the male children between the ages of six and nine, to be raised as Mohammedans and to form his corps of Janissary soldiers. Naturally, the strongest and finest boys were selected; however, being taken young, like many of the girls, no memories of parents or deep religious beliefs long affected them.

HOW THE TURKS IMPROVED THE RACE

By this system and by conversions (for many of the Christians went over to the new faith because of the privileges it offered, the foremost being the right to carry arms) the Turks added to their Semitic blood some of the finest manhood of the races of Southeastern Europe. Turks whose appearance is thoroughly European and Turks with fair hair and straight noses are to be distinguished throughout Western Turkey from the distinctive Semitic type; and some of the best brains in the recent Young Turk movement are European brains.

The infusion of European blood had a certain minor effect upon the character of the Turk, but the greater change came upon the converts and their offspring. The blight of the Mohammedan creed, which impairs all better civilizations that it touches, affected the Europeans only



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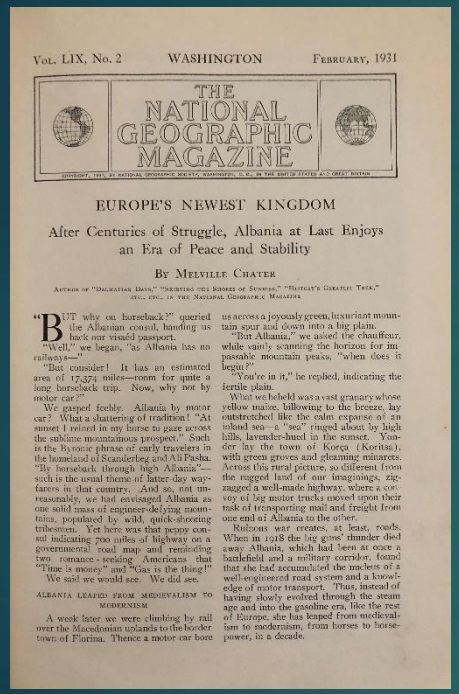

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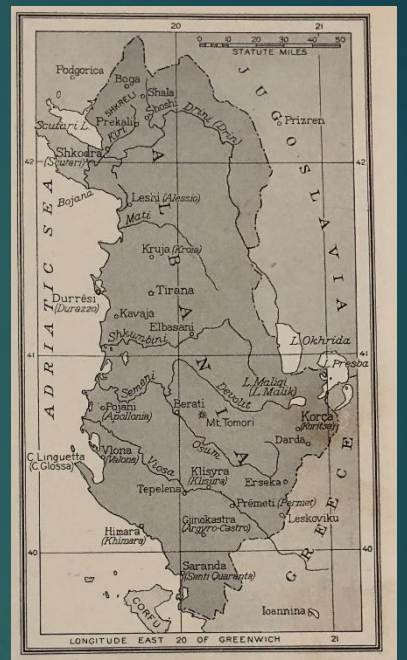
RECENT OBSERVATIONS IN ALBANIA

By Brig. Gen. George P. Scriven, U. S. Army

OF THE country in general, it may be said that Albania, as delimited by the maps existing before the war, is now under control of the Germans, the Austrians, and the Bulgars to the north of the latitude of Berat and the lakes, and under control of the French and the Italian troops to the south. The Greeks as yet have no control within the boundaries established by the Conference of London, while the English and the Serb theaters of operations lie in Macedonia.

The western part of southern Albania (soon perhaps all of west Albania, if the present Italian success carries on) is the more important section on account of the richness of the valleys and the value of the harbors on the Adriatic Sea. This territory is in the hands of the Italians, and is the part of Albania which forms the crux of the problem under consideration. Its disposition will determine the future fate of the country, for I believe that as this region goes so will Albania as a whole go. It would be idle as well as wrong to attempt to break asunder this numerically small but homogeneous race of mountaineers.

The sector occupied by the Italian troops at the present writing runs north of the river Viosa (also called the Voi-



Drawn by James M. Darley

THE LAND OF THE MEN OF THE EAGLE

The world is more familiar with Albania to-day than when the historian Gibbon wrote of it as "a country within sight of Italy, which is less known than the interior of America." Yet much remains to be learned of its 17,000 square miles of wild, romantic mountains and fertile plains; of its mineral resources; its time-mellowed towns; and its 830,000 people, particularly the little-known mountaineers. A peculiarity of the Albanian language is that it provides both an indefinite and a definite form for place names. The definite article is expressed by altering the termination. Thus Shkodër, Shkumbi (indefinite) may also be written Shkodra, Shkumbini (definite), the latter form being preferred.

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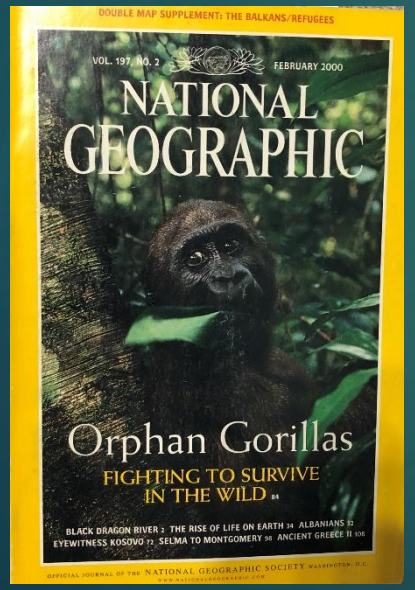
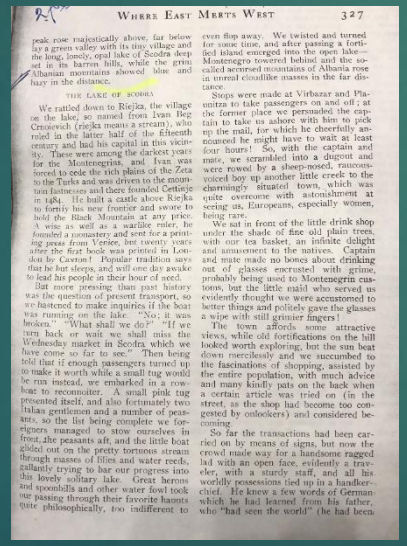




WHERE EAST MEETS WEST 327

peak rose majestically above, far below lay a green valley with its tiny village and the long, lonely, opal lake of Scodra deep set in its barren hills, while the grim Albanian mountains showed blue and hazy in the distance.

THE LAKE OF SCODRA

We rattled down to Riejka, the village on the lake, so named from Ivan Beg Crnojevich (riejka means a stream), who ruled in the latter half of the fifteenth century and had his capital in this vicinity. These were among the darkest years for the Montenegrins, and Ivan was forced to cede the rich plains of the Zeta to the Turks and was driven to the mountain fastnesses and there founded Cetinje in 1484. He built a castle above Riejka to fortify his new frontier and swore to hold the Black Mountain at any price. A wise as well as a warlike ruler, he founded a monastery and sent for a printing press from Venice, but twenty years after the first book was printed in London by Caxton! Popular tradition says that he but sleeps, and will one day awake to lead his people in their hour of need.

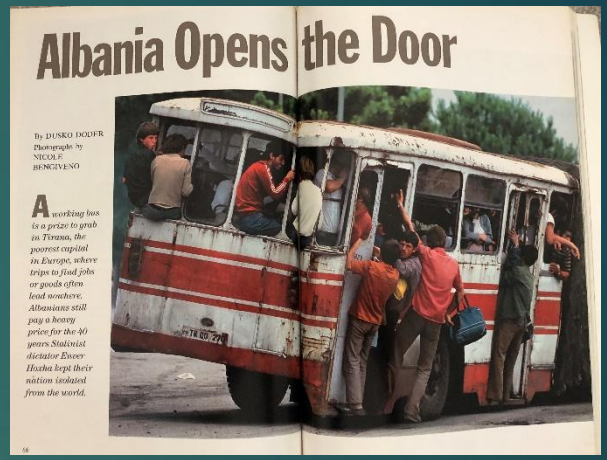
But more pressing than past history was the question of present transport, so we hastened to make inquiries if the boat was running on the lake. "No; it was broken." "What shall we do?" "If we turn back or wait we shall miss the Wednesday market in Scodra, which we have come so far to see." Then being told that if enough passengers turned up to make it worth while a small tug would be run instead, we embarked in a rowboat to reconnoiter. A small pink tug presented itself, and also fortunately two Italian gentlemen and a number of peasants, so the list being complete we foreigners managed to stow ourselves in front the peasants aft, and the little boat glided out on the pretty tortuous stream through masses of lilies and water reeds, gallantly trying to bar our progress into this lovely solitary lake. Great herons and spoonbills and other water fowl took our passing through their favorite haunts quite philosophically, too indifferent to even flop away. We twisted and turned for some time, and after passing a fortified island emerged into the open lake—Montenegro towered behind and the so-called accursed mountains of Albania rose in tiered cloudlike masses in the far distance.

Stops were made at Virbazar and Plamnitza to take passengers on and off; at the former place we persuaded the captain to take us ashore with him to pick up the mail, for which he cheerfully announced he might have to wait at least four hours! So, with the captain and mate, we scrambled into a dugout and were rowed by a sheep-nosed, raucous-voiced boy up another little creek to the charmingly situated town, which was quite overcome with astonishment at seeing us, Europeans, especially women, being rare.

We sat in front of the little drink shop under the shade of fine old plain trees, with our tea basket, an infinite delight and amusement to the natives. Captain and mate made no bones about drinking out of glasses encrusted with grime, probably being used to Montenegrin customs, but the little maid who served us evidently thought we were accustomed to better things and politely gave the glasses a wipe with still grimier fingers!

The town affords some attractive views, while old fortifications on the hill looked worth exploring, but the sun beat down mercilessly and we succumbed to the fascinations of shopping, assisted by the entire population, with much advice and many kindly pats on the back when a certain article was tried on (in the street, as the shop had become too congested by onlookers) and considered becoming.

So far the transactions had been carried on by means of signs, but now the crowd made way for a handsome ragged lad with an open face, evidently a traveler, with a sturdy staff, and all his worldly possessions tied up in a handkerchief. He knew a few words of German which he had learned from his father, who "had seen the world" (he had been



Albania Opens the Door

By DUSKO DODER
Photographs by NICOLE BENGIVENO

A working bus is a prize to grab in Tirana, the poorest capital in Europe, where trips to find jobs or goods often lead nowhere. Albanians still pay a heavy price for the 40 years Stalinist dictator Enver Hoxha kept their nation isolated from the world.

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Shqiptarët e njohin veten si 'Bijtë e Shqipes'. Ata i kanë vënë emrin vendit të tyre 'Shqipëria' ose 'Toka e Shqipes' dhe e morën këtë emër prej Pirros, Mbretit të Epirit, për sertësinë e treguar prej tyre në betejë. Shqiptarët gjithmonë e kanë konsideruar veten një grup etnik të veçuar, që besohet të rrjedhë drejtpërsëdrejti prej ilirëve të lashtë dhe prandaj ata mbeten banorët më të vjetër të Gadishullit të Ballkanit. Të shtyrë nga valët pushtuese dhe nga lëvizjet e fiseve prej territoreve të tyre të gjera në Gadishullin e Ballkanit, ilirët u vendosën në malet e mbrojtura mirë të veriut gjatë shekujve kur keltët, romakët, hunët dhe sllavët po e pushtonin Ballkanin. Për dy mijë vjet ata ia dolën që të ruajnë trashëgiminë kulturore, zakonet, institucionet dhe gjuhën e tyre.

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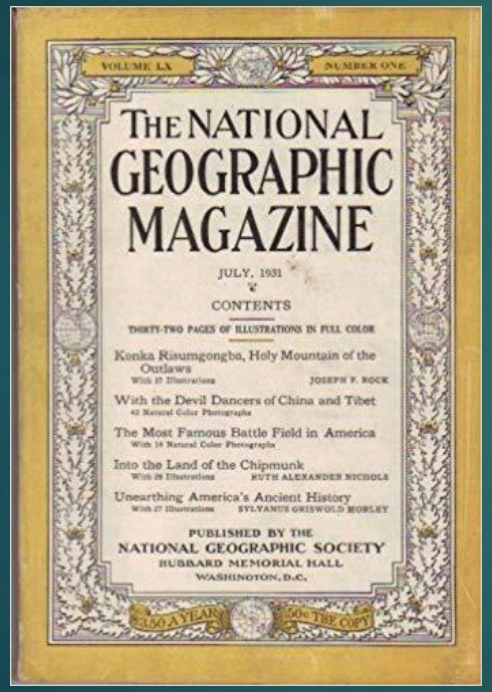

"POPULLI SHQIPTAR I KA PËRSHKUAR SHEKUJT DUKE PUNUAR SI TRIM DHE I TALENTUAR;

AI KAPI LARTËSITË E REPUBLIKËS GREKE, ATO TË MBRETIT TË PERSISË DHE TË BABILONIT.

ME NDIHMËN E PRINCESHËS SË MAQEDONISË, ATA I DHANË FUND PUSHTETIT TË ROMËS, HOQËN QAFE MIZORITË E TARANTINIT, FRENUAN PËR NJË FARË KOHE NË EMËR TË KRISHTËRIMIT PËRPARIMIN E SHPEJTË TË ISLAMIT. ATA MBROJTËN FRONIN E MBRETIT TË SICILISË, NGRITËN ATË TË GREQISË, DHE PËRSËRI ATYRE KURRË NUK IU DHA MIRËNJOHJE PËR ATË QË I DHANË HISTORISE".

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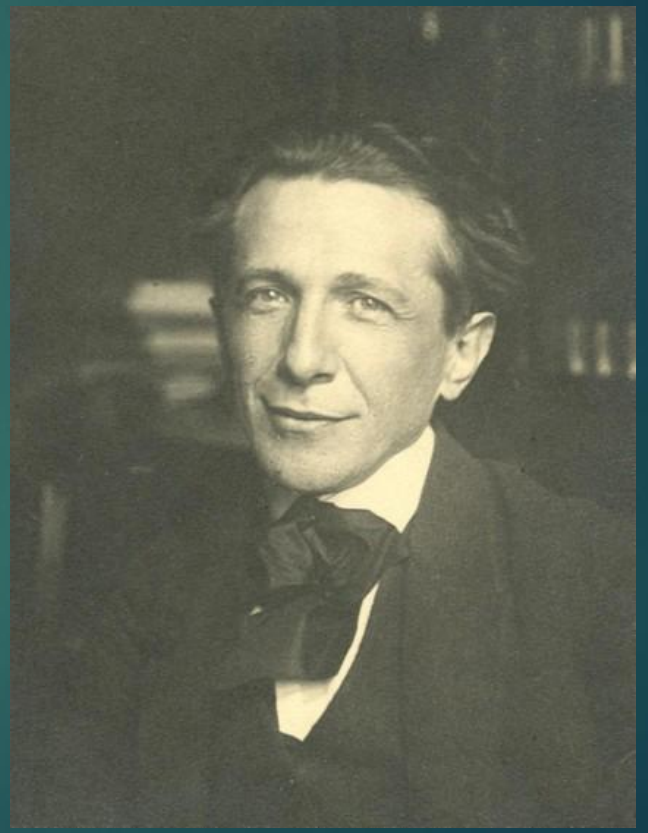
"Deri atëherë kur arkeologjia të hedhë më shumë dritë mbi gjuhën shqipe, mendimet filologjike lidhur me këtë temë, do të jenë të ndryshme. Kjo na bën të pohojmë se një e treta e fjalëve të gjuhës shqipe kanë origjinë pellazge; se gjuha shqipe është pasardhëse e ilirishtes së lashtë dhe se nuk ka ngjashmëri me greqishten; se është gjuha më e vjetër në Evropë dhe se është nëna e latinishtes dhe e greqishtes".



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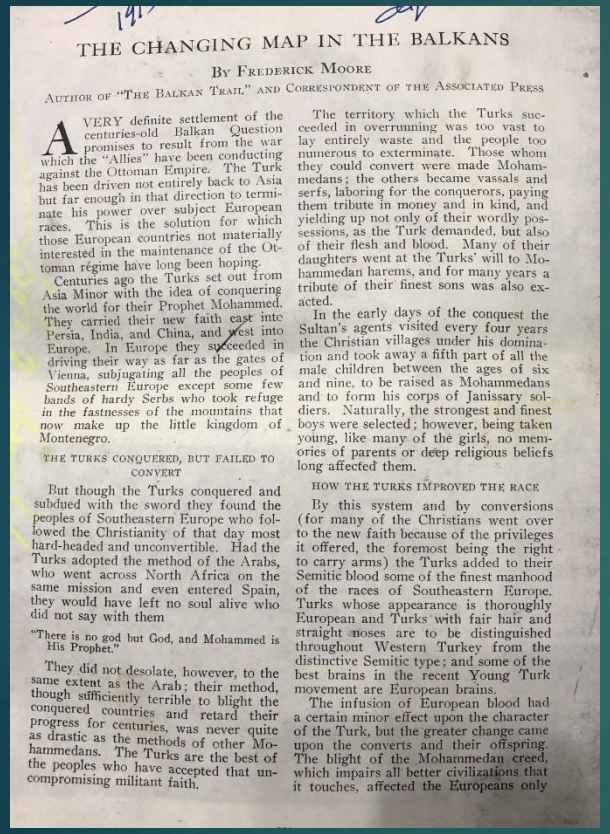

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Author of "The Balkan Trail" and Correspondent of the Associated Press

A VERY definite settlement of the centuries-old Balkan Question promises to result from the war which the "Allies" have been conducting against the Ottoman Empire. The Turk has been driven not entirely back to Asia but far enough in that direction to terminate his power over subject European races. This is the solution for which those European countries not materially interested in the maintenance of the Ottoman régime have long been hoping.

Centuries ago the Turks set out from Asia Minor with the idea of conquering the world for their Prophet Mohammed. They carried their new faith east into Persia, India, and China, and west into Europe. In Europe they succeeded in driving their way as far as the gates of Vienna, subjugating all the peoples of Southeastern Europe except some few bands of hardy Serbs who took refuge in the fastnesses of the mountains that now make up the little kingdom of Montenegro.

THE TURKS CONQUERED, BUT FAILED TO CONVERT

But though the Turks conquered and subdued with the sword they found the peoples of Southeastern Europe who followed the Christianity of that day most hard-headed and unconvertible. Had the Turks adopted the method of the Arabs, who went across North Africa on the same mission and even entered Spain, they would have left no soul alive who did not say with them

"There is no god but God, and Mohammed is His Prophet."

They did not desolate, however, to the same extent as the Arab; their method, though sufficiently terrible to blight the conquered countries and retard their progress for centuries, was never quite as drastic as the methods of other Mohammedans. The Turks are the best of the peoples who have accepted that uncompromising militant faith.

The territory which the Turks succeeded in overrunning was too vast to lay entirely waste and the people too numerous to exterminate. Those whom they could convert were made Mohammedans; the others became vassals and serfs, laboring for the conquerors, paying them tribute in money and in kind, and yielding up not only of their wordly possessions, as the Turk demanded, but also of their flesh and blood. Many of their daughters went at the Turks' will to Mohammedan harems, and for many years a tribute of their finest sons was also exacted.

In the early days of the conquest the Sultan's agents visited every four years the Christian villages under his domination and took away a fifth part of all the male children between the ages of six and nine, to be raised as Mohammedans and to form his corps of Janissary soldiers. Naturally, the strongest and finest boys were selected; however, being taken young, like many of the girls, no memories of parents or deep religious beliefs long affected them.

HOW THE TURKS IMPROVED THE RACE

By this system and by conversions (for many of the Christians went over to the new faith because of the privileges it offered, the foremost being the right to carry arms) the Turks added to their Semitic blood some of the finest manhood of the races of Southeastern Europe. Turks whose appearance is thoroughly European and Turks with fair hair and straight noses are to be distinguished throughout Western Turkey from the distinctive Semitic type; and some of the best brains in the recent Young Turk movement are European brains.

The infusion of European blood had a certain minor effect upon the character of the Turk, but the greater change came upon the converts and their offspring. The blight of the Mohammedan creed, which impairs all better civilizations that it touches, affected the Europeans only

Duke ndjekur ndarjen e Epirit, Iliria ra nën gotët dhe, më vonë, jugu i saj u përfshi nga pushtimet bullgare. Kështu, të shtyrë nga prapa, fiset ilire, epirote dhe maqedonase u shkrinë në një dhe, konkretisht, në atë që gjeografia e kohës së sotme e njeh si Shqipëria.

Asgjë nuk mbeti nga Lisi Ilir përveç lëndës shqiptare.

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Photograph by Merl La Voy

ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR IN CENTRAL ALBANIA

In 1893 some country-fair "roundabout" contraption inspired G. W. G. Ferris to build Chicago's mammoth wheel, which accommodated more than 1,000 passengers. Here, decades later, its primitive prototype is seen thrilling the youth of modern Albania.

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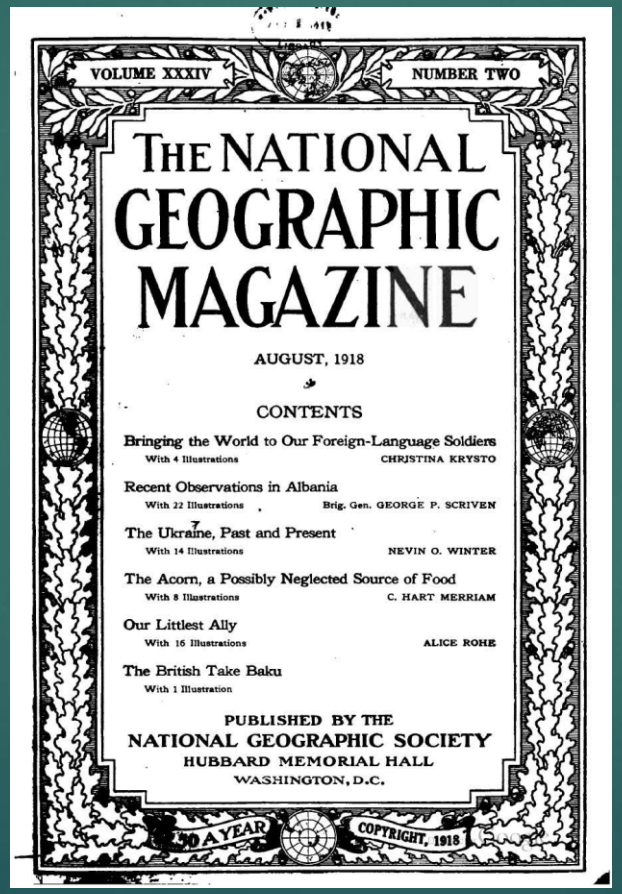

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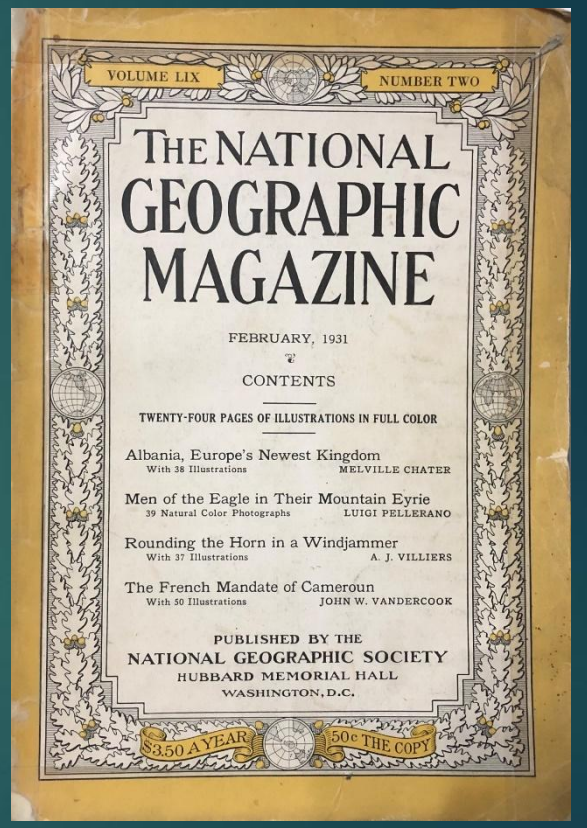
Shqiptarët e njohin veten si *Bijtë e Shqipes*. Ata i kanë vënë vendit të tyre emrin *Shqipëria* ose *Toka e Shqipes*. E morën këtë emër tre shekuj para Krishtit prej Pirros, Mbretit të Epirit, për sertësinë e treguar prej tyre në betejë. Shqiptarët gjithmonë e kanë konsideruar veten një grup etnik të veçuar që besohet të rrjedhë drejtpërsëdrejti prej ilirëve të lashtë dhe prej këndej ata mbeten banorët më të vjetër të Gadishullit të Ballkanit.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Rounding the Horn in a Windjammer
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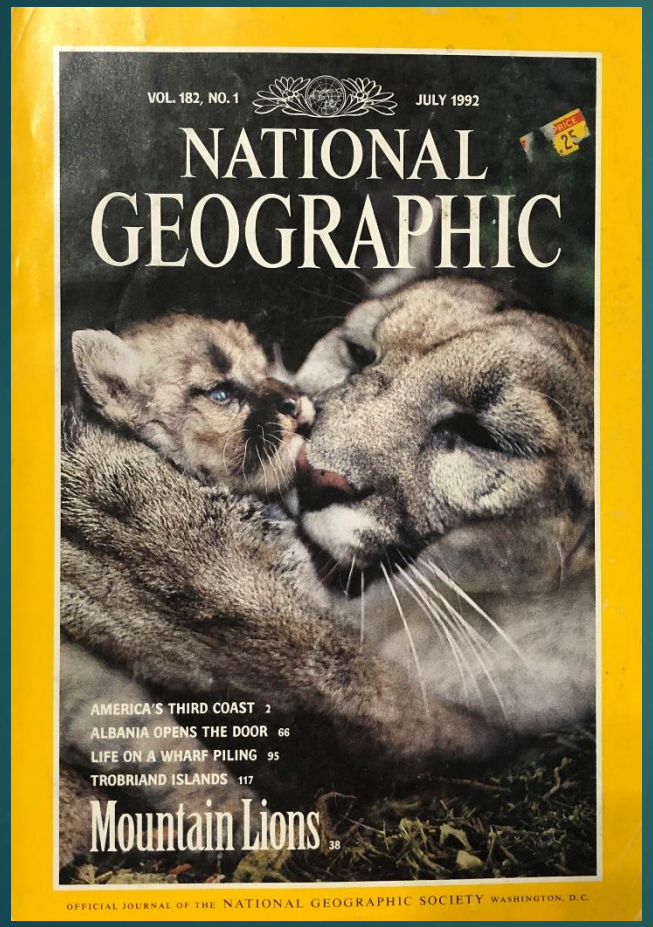

"Rajoni perëndimor i Vilajetit të Manastirit dhe një pjesë e madhe e atij të Kosovës janë të banuara prej një race më të egër dhe më të vjetër se çdo racë tjetër që gjendet në Evropë – prej shqiptarëve. Shumë pak dihet për këtë popull interesant e të çuditshëm përveç asaj që ata flasin një gjuhë indoevropiane, por nuk i takojnë asnjërit prej grupeve të njohura të familjes ariane. Besohet se ata rrjedhin prej ilirëve të lashtë, të cilët qenë shtyrë me forcë drejt perëndimit prej valëve sllave që përparonin në atë drejtim

Albanians in THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

"Kuptimi simbolik i shqiponjës dhe i shigjetës është i lashtë. Mijëra vjet më vonë, ai simbol do të shfaqej në Stemën Konsullore të Shteteve të Bashkuara të Amerikës. Sido që të jetë, epirotët u kapën pas emrit të Mbretit Pirro dhe simboleve të tij, duke e pagëzuar vetveten me krenari - shqiptarë ose Bijtë e Shqipes".

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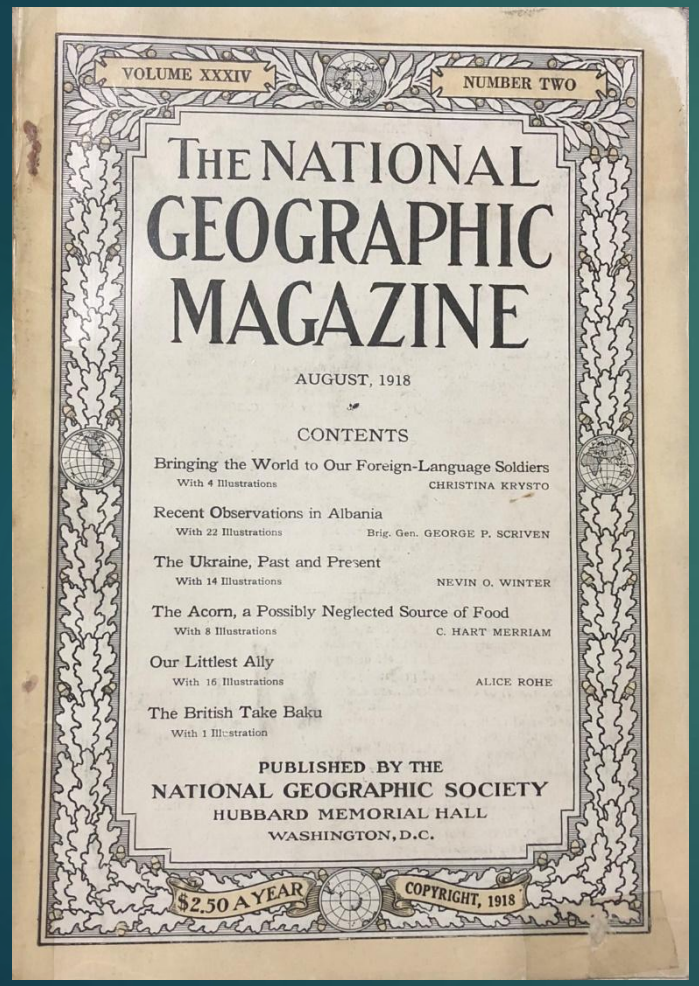
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Robert Guiscard, kryqtari norman që e pushtoi Shqipërinë Qendrore në shekullin e njëmbëdhjetë, thuhet të jetë përgjegjës për emrin Albania; ai dhe pasuesit e tij e gjetën të vështirë që ta shqiptonin emrin e qytetit shqiptar *Elbasan* dhe e ndryshuan atë në Albania."

'*Albanian Struggle in the Old World and New*', Boston: The Writer Inc., 1939, faqe 3-4.

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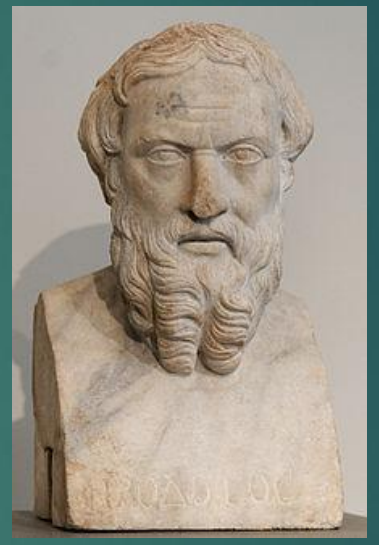
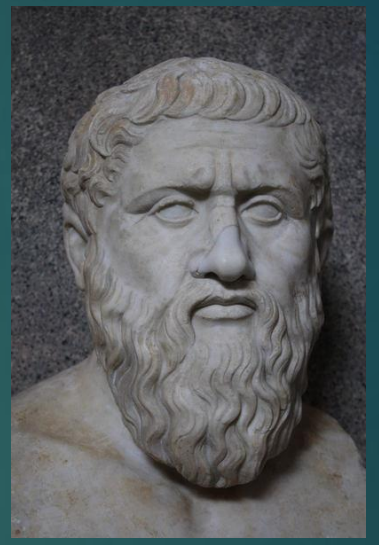
Albanians in
THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

Çfarëdo që të kenë menduar Platoni dhe
Herodoti për formulimin e mësipërm,
ata të dy na thonë se grekët i
huazuan hyjnitë e tyre nga pellazgët.
Dhe, sipas disa filologëve,
ajo pikëpamje është
mbështetur në faktin se emrat Zeus,
Nemesis dhe Rhea rrjedhin nga fjalët shqipe zee-zëri,
nemë-mallkim dhe rhea-retë





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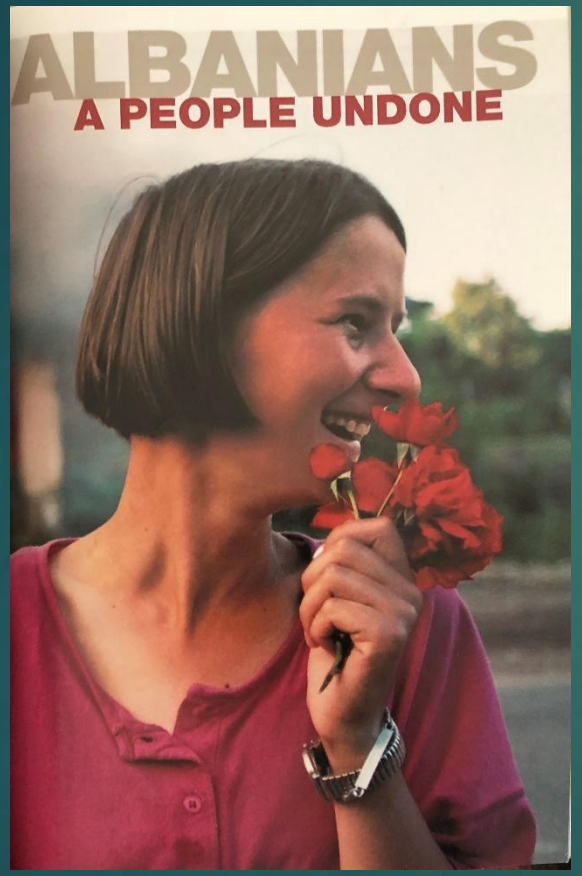

Shqiptarët etnikë, shumica myslimanë, me rritjen më të madhe të popullsisë në Evropë, përbëjnë 90 përqind të banorëve të Kosovës. Ata pohojnë se rrjedhin nga ilirët, atdheu i të cilëve ishte aty shekuj më parë se serbët dhe sllavët e tjerë të dirgjeshin aty që nga veriu.

Albanians in THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

"… Dyrrahiumi i ditëve kur lulëzonte Roma. Shumë vogëlushë ilirë, të cilët i shihnin legjionet e kësaj të fundit tek marshonin, u rritën për t'i shërbyer Gardës Pretoriane.

Njërit prej këtyre të rinjve vendas, i quajtur Deocletian, as që i shkonte mendja se një ditë do të vishte vellon e purpurt perandorake…për të ardhur pastaj te një tjetër embrion perandorësh ilirë, Konstandini i vogël, i parathënë për t'u quajtur 'i madh', i cili mund të ketë thirrur:

"Ja tek erdhën" kur legjionet u turrën përmes qytetit të tij, Nishit, që tani gjendet nën Serbi".

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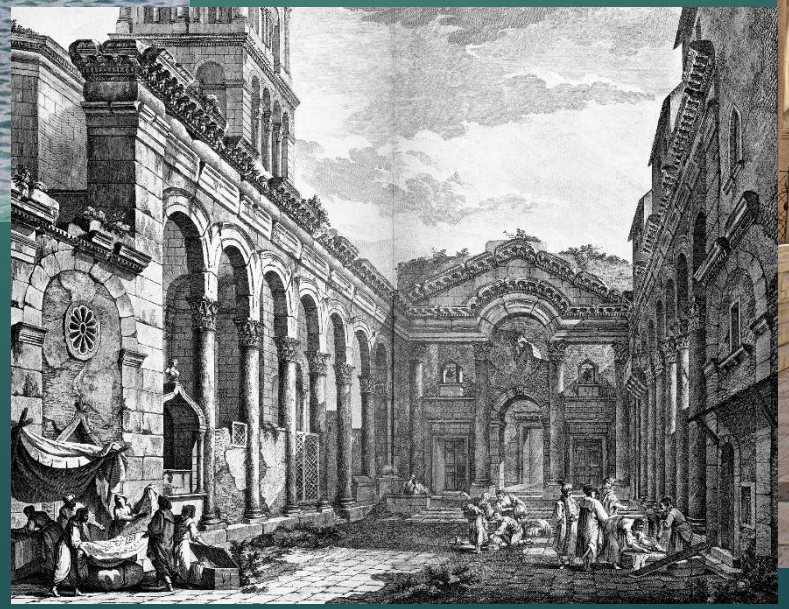
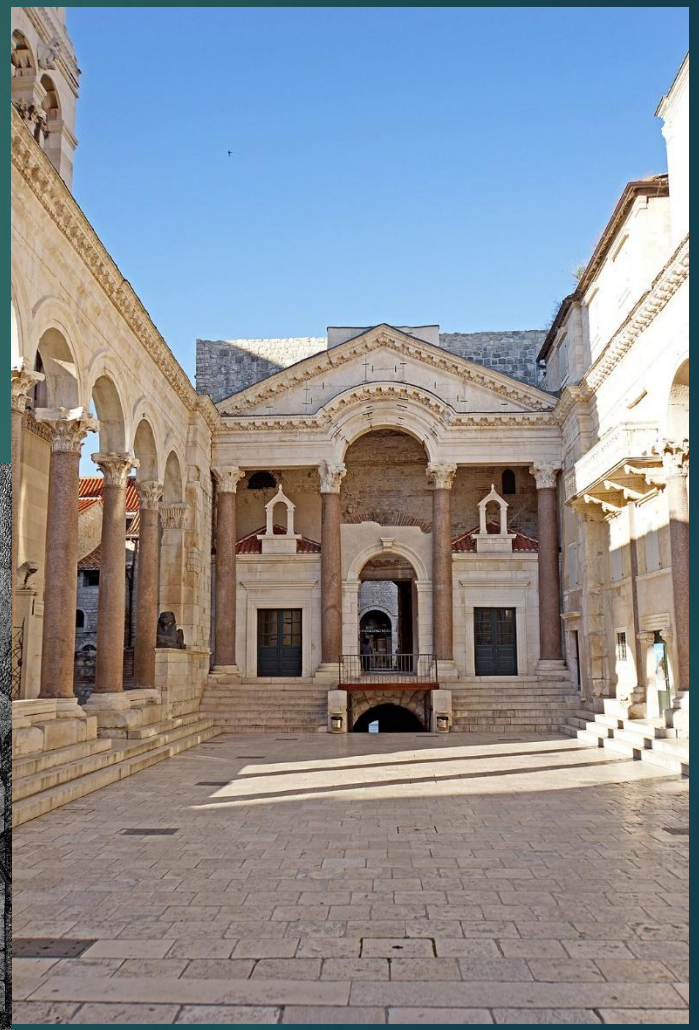
Pallati i Perandorit Ilir Diocletion ne Split Spalatio - Kroaci





Albanians in
THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

Në rrjedhë të shekujve arbëreshët i dhanë Italisë katër Papë, dhe tre kardinalë.

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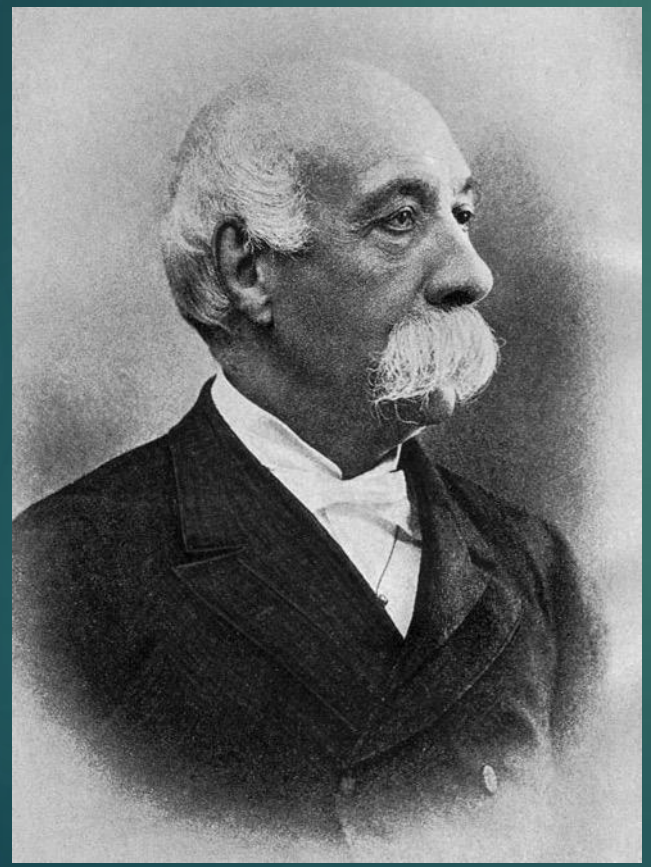

FRANCESCO CRISPI

Arbëreshët i dhanë Italisë edhe Kryeministrin dhe burrin e shtetit, Francesko Krispi.

Ata e ruajtën kulturën shqiptare gjatë sundimit turk dhe studiuesit e tyre qenë midis të parëve që e kodifikuan dhe e shkruan gjuhën shqipe.

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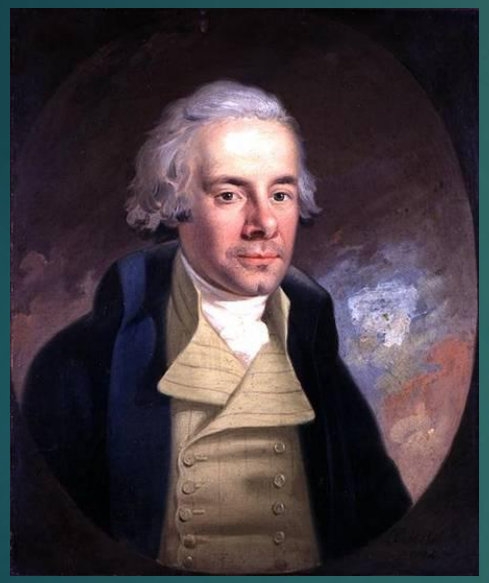

Shqipëria, ndonëse është aq afer me Italinë, është më pak e njohur sesa pjesa e brendshme e Amerikës," shkruante historiani Eduard Gibbon njëqind vjet më parë. Ajo ende është, në masë të madhe, *terra incognita*. Një letër e drejtuar për në *Albani* tani vonë, qe dërguar nga Anglia në Amerikë dhe pastaj u kthye nga Albany, në Nju Jork me një shënim sipër: "Jo për Albany, përpiquni ta gjeni këtë vend në Evropë Albany, është kryeqyteti i shtetit të Nju Jorkut në SHBA.

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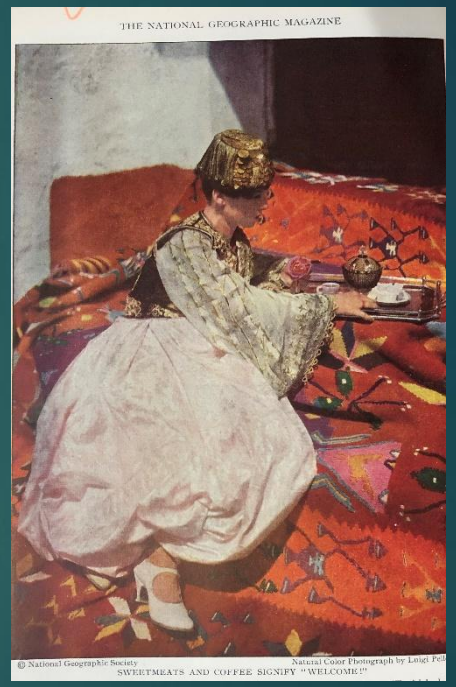
Të pasura dhe të varfëra, në qytet ose në malësi, gratë shqiptare janë të barabarta kur është fjala për t'u respektuar si në shtëpi, ashtu edhe përpara ligjit. Për shekuj të tërë gruaja shqiptare ka gëzuar prej një zakoni që nuk mbahet mend se kur është krijuar, një status ligjor të tillë që gratë në perëndim kanë luftuar dhe ia kanë dalë ta marrin vetëm në kohët moderne.



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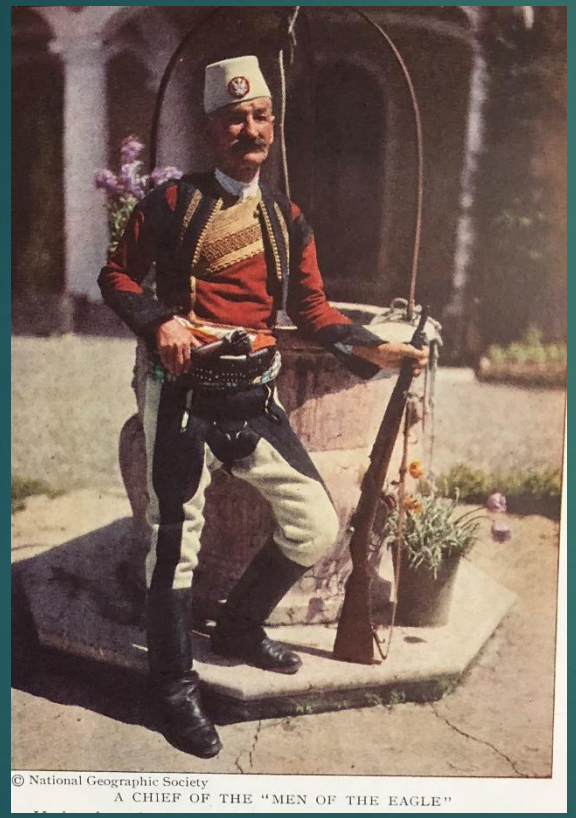
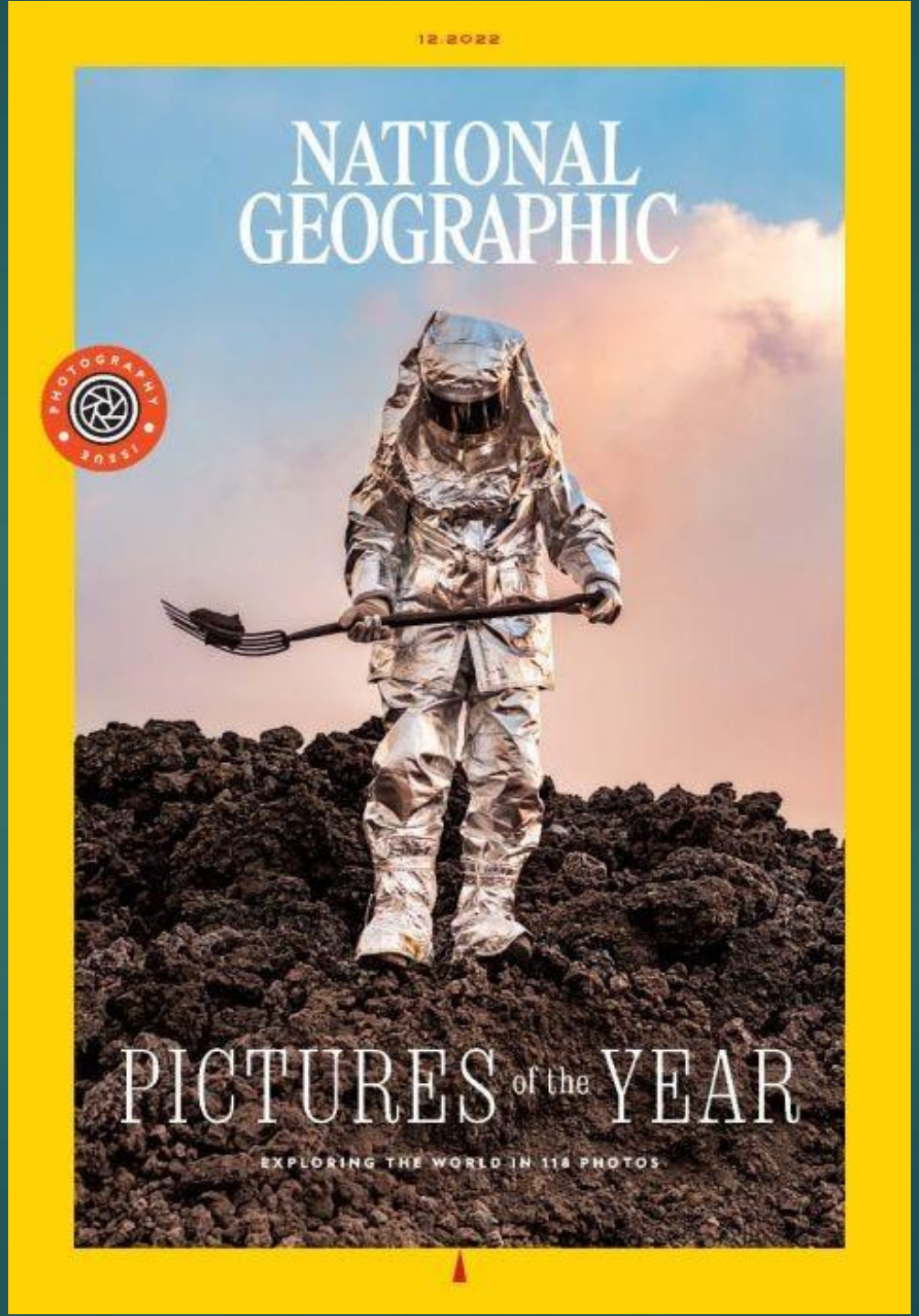


Sot shqiptari është personi më piktoresk në Evropë, tepër interesant në veçoritë e tij. E një rëndësie më të madhe është e ardhmja e tij politike. Vetëdija kombëtare e shqiptarit të kohëve të fundit po del në pah dhe nuk mund të ndrydhet më. Nën qeverisjen anormale turke, raca të ndryshme të krishtera të perandorisë, siç janë armenët otomanë, bullgarët otomanë dhe grekët otomanë, kanë pasur secili qenien e vet kombëtare, një shtet brenda shtetit, ndonëse përherë të nënshtruar ndaj vullnetit të turqve."

National Geographic Magazine, '*The Albanians*', nëntor 1912, faqe 1093.

Albanians in THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

Ndonëse, në përgjithësi, i janë përshtatur një farë besimi mysliman që u jep atyre gjoja një lloj solidariteti me turqit, shqiptarët janë të vendosur që edhe ata të kenë qenien e tyre kombëtare. Udhëheqësit e tyre e kanë kuptuar se ata nuk janë racë lindore, por racë perëndimore.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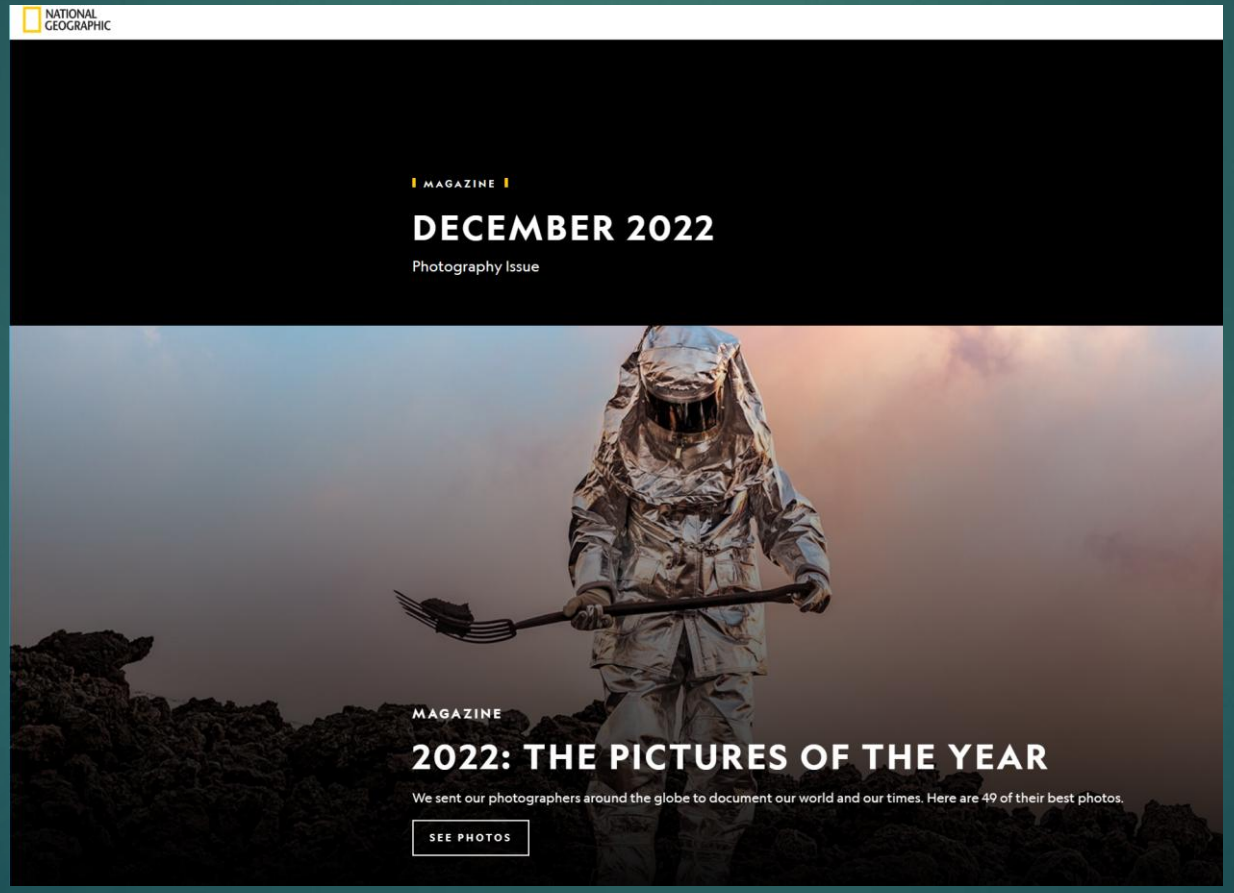
The picture of the year 2022



‘THE PARIS OF THE BALKANS’

Albania has a turbulent history. Over thousands of years, the country was occupied by several empires, from the Roman to the Byzantine to the Ottoman. It was under the last that Voskopojë thrived, becoming the “Paris of the Balkans” by 1760, as observers wrote.

A faded section of St. Mary’s ceiling fresco illustrates some of the work required to bring the Orthodox Christian churches of Voskopojë, Albania, back to their former glory.

A faded section of St. Mary’s ceiling fresco illustrates some of the work required to bring the Orthodox Christian churches of Voskopojë, Albania, back to their former glory.
PHOTOGRAPH BY IMAGEBROKER, ALAMY STOCK PHOTOS

Some of the most magnificent frescoes can be found in the ‘Paris of the Balkans’ Preservationists in Albania’s Voskopojë are racing to save hundreds of 18th-century Orthodox masterpieces in time-ravaged churches.

The bell tower of the Church of St. Mary stands at the roadside in Voskopojë, Albania. At one time, the town had more than 20 Orthodox Christian churches.

The bell tower of the Church of St. Mary stands at the roadside in Voskopojë, Albania. At one time, the town had more than 20 Orthodox Christian churches.
PHOTOGRAPH BY IMAGEBROKER, ALAMY STOCK PHOTOS

Deep in southeastern Albania, a tiny hamlet holds five churches that have one of the most magnificent concentrations of Orthodox Christian fresco art in the world.

A vault inside the Church of St. George in nearby Shipcka is an example of the vibrant frescoes that once decorated the Voskopojë churches.

It’s a minor miracle that the frescoes survive at all. Beginning in the late 18th century, Voskopojë was ransacked and razed three times in 20 years. It was burned in World War I and bombed in World War II. Of the more than 20 churches that once stood in the village, only six remain, including the five with frescoes.

Constructed in 1699, it's the largest and oldest of the four churches with frescoes that still stand in the village. The other three went up within a few decades, and all are laid out in roughly the same basilica style. (The fifth is in a monastery on a hill overlooking the village.)

The frescoes painted along the portico at the Church of St. Nicholas were badly damaged due to wars and neglect under Communist rule. Some of the panels were recently restored.
PHOTOGRAPH BY WITOLD SKRYPCZAK, ALAMY STOCK PHOTOS

From the outside, the churches in Voskopojë resemble stone barns, a reflection of their 18th-century heritage as Christian gathering places in the Islamic Ottoman Empire. Inside, however, they reveal painted masterworks of brilliant blues, reds, and yellows that come to life in themes both awesome (Christ the Almighty, or Pantocrator) and eccentric (St. Nicholas outsmarts the goddess Artemis).

The exterior of the Church of St. Nicholas. An ambitious plan would shore up the masonry and sagging roofs of three of the five remaining 18th-century religious sites in Voskopojë, Albania.

The exterior of the Church of St. Nicholas. An ambitious plan would shore up the masonry and sagging roofs of three of the five remaining 18th-century religious sites in Voskopojë, Albania.
PHOTOGRAPH BY IMAGEBROKER, ALAMY STOCK PHOTOS

Voskopojë, by then a bona fide city, controlled a lucrative overland trade route between the Adriatic and Istanbul, linking the Ottomans to the doges in Venice, the Habsburgs in Vienna, and beyond. At its peak, as many as 50 craft guilds operated, attracting and training artisans like tailors, goldsmiths, and gunsmiths. For a time, the city had the only printing press in the Ottoman Empire, fed by the New Academy, a crucible of Enlightenment ideas founded in 1744.

Albanians in THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE

Edhe njerëzit edhe vetë Shqipëria të kujtojnë aq shumë Zvicrën siç do të ketë qenë në kohët e hershme kur ishte më e këndshme dhe më e pa-populluar sesa tani në kohët moderne, e kthyer në një shesh lojërash për Evropën.

Një ditë, pa dyshim, Shqipëria do të zbulohet prej botës; dhe kur të vijë ajo ditë, i madh do të jetë ndryshimi aty dhe e madhe do të jetë edhe etja e njerëzve për t'ia parë mrekullitë dhe për t'iu gëzuar hijeshisë së saj.

Shqipërisë i nevojiten njerëz, sipërmarrje dhe para; nëse këto tri gjëra i ka, atëherë zhvillimi i saj do të jetë i sigurtë.

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Faleminderit

Thank you

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